

REMARKS

Claims 1, 10, 104, 107, and 111 have been amended to define Applicants' invention with greater precision and particularity. As amended, the claims are supported by the specification and the original claims and add no new matter. Thus, entry of the amendments are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 3-12, and 104-111 are pending.

A. Regarding the Claim Objections

The objections to claims 3, 8, and 104-111 have been addressed as follows. Claim 3 has been previously amended to depend from claim 1, rather than canceled claim 2. Claims 8 and 107 have been previously and currently amended to correct the spelling of "polyacrylamide" and of "polyacyloylmorpholide," and to delete redundant reference to "polystyrene." In addition, claim 1 has been previously amended so that the word "comprising" is now followed by a colon rather than a semicolon. Also, claim 9 has been previously amended to include a period at the end of the claim. Finally, claim 106 has been previously amended to delete an inadvertent comma appearing at the end of the claim. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to claims 3, 8, and 104-111 are respectfully requested.

B. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) and § 102(b)

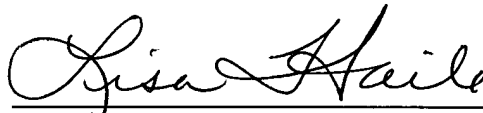
The rejections of claims 1, 4-7, and 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), as allegedly being anticipated by Tsien, et. al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,008,378), and under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by Griffin, et. al. (Science, Vol. 281, p. 269-272, July 10, 1998), are respectfully traversed. As suggested by the Examiner, the clause "tautomer, anhydride or salt of said modified FIAsh compound" has been deleted from claim 1. The applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's suggestion of acceptable alternative claim language.

Therefore, it is submitted that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the references cited by the Examiner. Claims 4-7, 9, and 12 depend on claim 1, and are patentable for at least the same reason. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 4-7, and 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) and 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and favorable action on all claims are respectfully requested. In the event any matters remain to be resolved, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below so that a prompt disposition of this application can be achieved.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa A. Haile, J.D., Ph.D.
Registration No. 38,347
Telephone: (858) 677-1456
Facsimile: (858) 677-1465

Date: April 21, 2004

GRAY CARY WARE & FREIDENRICH LLP
4365 Executive Drive, Suite 1100
San Diego, California 92121-2133
USPTO Customer Number 28213